

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMEMBASSY ROME
USUN NEW YORK 798
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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12080

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FAI, OCON, VN, VS
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE PARTICIPATION IN THE FAO REGIONAL
CONFERENCE

REF: A) STATE 196882 (NOTAL); B) MANILA 12008 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. SRV DELEGATION, LED BY VICE MINISTER
OF AGRICULTURE, IS PARTICIPATING IN CURRENT FAO
REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN MANILA. WHILE CIRCUMSTANCES
OF SRV INVITATION ARE NOT CLEAR, GOP MAY HAVE
BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS. SRV PRESENCE
GENERALLY WELCOMED BY REGIONAL DELEGATES. USDEL,
UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, HAS MADE STATEMENT RESERVING
ON SRV PARTICIPATION UNTIL MATTER IS RAISED IN
NORMAL MANNER IN FAO CONFERENCE. REACTION TO
U.S. STATEMENT, INCLUDING SRV REBUTTAL, HAS BEEN
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RELATIVELY MILD. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE-MAN SRV DELEGATION, LED BY VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LE DUY TRINH, IS ATTENDING AND PARTICIPATING IN CURRENT FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE HERE. CIRCUMSTANCES OF SRV INVITATION NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. DIRGEN SAOUMA TOLD USDEL THAT VIETNAMESE QUOTE WERE INVITED BY TELEPHONE UNQUOTE BUT DID NOT SAY BY WHOM. WE SPECULATE THAT GOP MAY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ARRANGING INVITATION WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN CONVEYED BY UMALI (FILIPINO), ASSISTANT DIRGEN AND REGIONAL REP FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST HEADQUARTERED IN BANGKOK. AT OUTSET OF CONFERENCE AT BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK UMALI SOUGHT OUT USDEL AND INFORMED HIM ABOUT SRV INVITATION, WHILE DIRGEN SAOUMA TOLD US THAT U.S. PERMREP FAO ROME WAS INFORMED ABOUT SAME TIME. SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE CONFERENCE GOP DELEGATE TANCO HAS EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE AT SRV PRESENCE.

3. SRV COUNTRY STATEMENT BY TRINH AUGUST 11 WAS RELATIVELY MODERATE WITH FOCUS ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. TRINH REFERRED TO "IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION" AND WAS DEVASTATION BUT MADE NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF U.S. MONGOLIA FOLLOWED WITH A STRONG STATEMENT NOTING TRIUMPHANT STRUGGLE OF THE VIETNAMESE AND THE NEED TO ELIMINATE THE VESTIGES OF IMPERIALISM IN THE REGION. STATEMENT BY LAOS WAS IN THE SAME VEIN BUT LOWER-KEYED. SUBSEQUENT PAKISTAN STATEMENT INCLUDED POINTED WELCOME TO VIETNAMESE DELEGATION.

4. USDEL AUGUST 12 PRESENTED COUNTRY STATEMENT, INCLUDING REMARKS ON VIET-NAM PARTICIPATION AS PROVIDED PARA 2 REF A (RESERVING U.S. POSITION UNTIL MATTER IS RAISED IN NORMAL MANNER IN FAO CONFERENCE). CHAIRMAN SUBSEQUENTLY RECOGNIZED SRV DEL. SPEAKING IN ENGLISH WITH A DIFFICULT ACCENT, TRINH STATED THAT SRV HAD COME TO THE CONFERENCE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF HELPING TO STRENGTHEN INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL COOPERATION. BUT SINCE THE LEGITIMACY OF THEIR STATUS WAS BEING QUESTIONED, IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE SRV, SINCE RE-UNIFICATION OF THE TWO REGIMES, HAS EXERCISED THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. HE CONCLUDED BY REMARKING THAT THE QUESTION OF SRV STATUS RAISED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS DESIGNED TO UPSET THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE OF THE CONFERENCE. CHINESE

DEL FOLLOWED WITH ASSERTION THAT THE LEGITIMATE STATUS OF SRV IS "INDISPUTABLE" AND THAT CHINA FIRMLY SUPPORTS THE PARTICIPATION OF SRV IN THE CONFERENCE. SRI LANKA DEL, ON INSTRUCTIONS HIS GOVERNMENT, VOICED STRONG SUPPORT OF PRC IN SUPPORTING SRV PRESENCE. PAKISTAN DEL FULLY ENDORSED VIEWS OF PRC AND SRV DELS AND CONGRATULATED GOP FOR HAVING INVITED SRV.

5. COMMENT. ON BASIS OF INITIAL ASSESSMENT, REACTION TO U.S. STATEMENT REGARDING PRESENCE VIET-NAM DELEGATION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY MILD. LIMITED REACTION APPEARS TO BE DUE IN PART TO CONSIDERABLE EFFORT BY PHILIPPINE AND OTHER DELS WITH WHOM USDEL CONSULTED IN ADVANCE AND WHO WERE CONCERNED THAT SRV STATUS NOT BECOME A DIVISIVE ISSUE IN THE CONFERENCE. IT IS MANIFEST HOWEVER THAT U.S. POSTURE OF RESERVATION CONCERNING SRV PARTICIPATION HAS LITTLE SUPPORT AMONG REGIONAL DELEGATIONS.
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